## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /034 W ------ 094069 /53

P R 221446Z DEC 76 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2372 INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, SOPN, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: AMERICANS REFUSED ADMISSION TO SOVIET UNION

- 1. AMCIT TRAVELING WITH AMERICAN TOUR GROUP TELEPHONED CONSOFF DECEMBER 22 TO REPORT THAT THREE MEMBERS OF GROUP HAD BEEN STOPPED BY SOVIET CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AT AIRPORT TWO DAYS BEFORE AND HAD NOT BEEN SEEN BY REST OF GROUP AFTER THAT. NAMES OF AMERICANS STOPPED ARE BEVERLY GRIBETZ, ALLEN LUCAS AND JACOB LEVITT. ALL ARRIVED MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, FROM NEW YORK ABOARD AEROFLOT SU 316.
- 2. CONSOFF CONTACTED MFA AND REQUESTED INFORMATION ON WHEREABOUTS OF DETAINED AMERICANS. AFTER CHECKING WITH SOVIET CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES, MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED CONSOFF THAT ALL THREE AMERICANS WERE REFUSED ADMISSION ON GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE CARRYING UNDECLARED CONTRABAND AND ANTI-SOVIET LITERATURE OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER. MFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT ALL HAD LEFT SOVIET UNION FOR PARIS ABOARD FLIGHT WHICH DEPARTED MOSCOW 11:30 A.M., DECEMBER 21.
- 3. MFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT TWO OTHER AMERICANS, MICHAEL AND PAMELA BELKOVITZ, HAD ALSO BEEN REFUSED ADMISSION FOR SAME REASONS AND DEPARTED ON SAME FLIGHT. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARRIVED IN MOSCOW WITH OTHER THREE AMERICANS.

4. CONSOFF EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED, GIVEN FACT THAT AMERICANS WERE DETAINED FOR SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF TIME. MFA OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN ARRESTED BUT SIMPLY REFUSED ADMISSION TO THE SOVIET UNION. CONSOFF

RESPONDED THAT QUESTION OF PERMITTING DETAINED AMERICANS TO CONTACT AMERICAN EMBASSY HAD BEEN RAISED IN BILATERAL CONSULAR TALKS AND REMAINED A MATTER OF CONCERN TO EMBASSY.

- 5. EMBASSY INTENDS TO FOLLOW TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH NOTE TO MFA, REVIEWING INCIDENT AND AGAIN, AS WE DID IN KLEINBERG DETENTION, LENINGRAD 1896, POINTING OUT THAT EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT AMERICANS WHO ARE DETAINED, EVEN TEMPORARILY, HAVE RIGHT TO CONTACT EMBASSY.
- 6. COMMENT: THIS IS FOURTH CASE ##

OR DENIAL OF ENTRY TO AMERICANS ENTERING USSR WITH MATERIAL OBJECTIONABLE TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES (SEE MOSCOW 19732). MATLOCK

NOTE BY OCT: ## OMISSION; CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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## Message Attributes

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TAGS: CASC, SOPN, PFOR, UR, US, (GRIBETZ, BEVERLY), (LUCAS, ALLEN), (LEVITT, JACOB)

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